

SPECTIMEN

Printing Types

THOMAS B. REED

PRINTED

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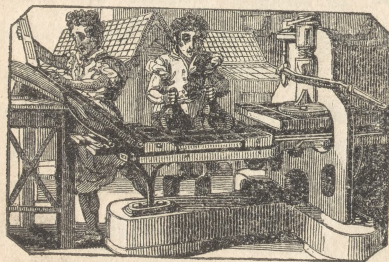
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A
SPECIMEN
OF THE
Printing Types
OF
THOMAS ROGERSON,
PRINTER,
Stationer, Bookseller, and Bookbinder,
21, MARKET-PLACE,
MANCHESTER.



And as his art a nobler effort made,
The sweeping lever his commands obey'd ;
Elastic balls the sable stains supply ;
Light o'er the form the sheeted tympan fly,
The beauteous work returning leaves unfold,
As with alternate force the axle roll'd.

M'Creery's Press, a Poem.

MANCHESTER:
PRINTED AT THE OFFICE OF T. ROGERSON, PRINTER AND PUBLISHER OF
THE MANCHESTER ALMANACK, MARKET-PLACE.

1817.

SPRINGER

OF THE

Printing Office

187

THOMAS ROBERTSON,

PRINTER

PRINTING, BOOKBINDING, AND STATIONERY

11 MARKET STREET

NEW YORK



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PRINTED AT THE OFFICE OF A. J. ROBERTSON, PRINTER, 115 N. 4TH ST., NEW YORK

ADDRESS.

The encouragement which has of late years been given to fine printing, and the demand for the neatest types, have stimulated the Letter-Founders to vie with each other in producing the most elegant and best proportioned letters; and the perfection to which they have arrived, must be highly gratifying to those who have interested themselves in raising the credit of the BRITISH PRESS.

T. Rogerson, in fitting up his Printing Office, has selected the neatest Types of several of the most approved and best Letter-Founders. He now offers the Public a Specimen of his Printing, and trusts by executing his work in the neatest manner, to obtain a share of Public Patronage in the GENERAL LINE OF PRINTING, which shall be his endeavour to deserve.

Authors, and others who have Books to print, may see Specimens of prose or poetical works, printed by T. R. on application at his Shop.

As T. R. has had the management of the town department of one of the first bookselling concerns in London, he is well acquainted with the nature of publishing, and respectfully informs Authors,

that he can get their works published in London by any Bookseller they may prefer.—From his practical knowledge of printing, and experience in several London Printing Offices, he is enabled, and care will be taken, to execute his work in the neatest style.

Ledgers and Account Books of every size, ruled to any pattern and bound with the most improved spring backs.—Books bound in Russia, Morocco, and calf, elegant or plain, bindings.—A good assortment of Writing Papers, Stationery, Memorandum Books, &c. on reasonable terms.

T. R. cannot omit this opportunity of returning thanks to his Friends and the Public, for the support with which they have already honoured him, and hopes by punctuality and assiduity to merit a continuance of their patronage.

*Market-Place, Manchester,
July, 1817.*

T. R. thought it was unnecessary to insert all his large Types, and that the following were of a sufficient size to begin the Specimen.

Irwell, about seven miles from whence the latter forms a junction with the Mersey.

ABCDEF GHIJ KLMNOPQRSTU VW

£ 1234567890

Manchester with Salford contains a population of upwards of 100,000 inhabitants, and is next in size to London, from which it is distant 185 miles.

English most plain never found
ever upon earth, and yet
the letter forms are
very easy.

WVUTSRQPONMLKJIHGFEDCBA
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and various kinds of
writing, and yet
the most plain and
easy to be learned
and yet the most
perfect.

And be it further hereby enact-
ed, That the Mayors. Bailiffs,
or other head Officers of every
Town and place corporate, and
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And be it further hereby
enacted, That the Mayors
Bailiffs, or other head Of-
ficers of every Town or
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And be it further hereby enacted, That
the Mayors, Bailiffs, or other head
Officers of every Town and place cor-
porate, and City within this Realm,
being Justice, or Justices of Peace,
ABCDEFGHIKLANOPQRSTU
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And be it further hereby enacted, That the May-
ors, Bailiffs, or other head Officers of every
Town and place corporate, and City within this
Realm, being Justice, or Justices of the Peace,
shall have the same authority by virtue of this
Act, within the limits and precincts of their Ju-
ABCDEFGHIKLANOPQRSTU
XYZ

Πατερ ἡμῶν ὁ ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς· ἁγιασθῆτω τὸ ὄνομά σε. Ἐλθέτω
ἡ βασιλεία σε. γενηθῇτω τὸ θέλημά σε, ὡς ἐν ἑρανῶ, καὶ ἐπὶ τῆς
ABΓΔΕΖΗΘΙΚΑΜΝΞΟΠΣΤΥΦΧΥΩ

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Water Works

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M. 10. 11. 12

Y 31 A M. 311 V. 1

and 11 287

311 11 11 11 11 11

And whereas
Statutes
And be it further enacted
the Mayors, Bailiffs, or
And be it further enacted, That the Mayors,
Bailiffs, or other head Officers of every Town

**Manchester, a large commercial
and manufacturing town, situated
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S**

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*in the south of Lancashire, up-
on the rivers Irk, Medlock, and*


A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P

PRINTING IN ENGLAND.*

It was uniformly asserted by our earliest writers, that printing was introduced and first practised in England by William Caxton, a merchant and citizen of London, who by his travels abroad, and residence of many years in

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Holland, Flanders, and Germany, in the affairs of trade, had an opportunity of informing himself of the whole method and process of the art ; and that after his return, by the patronage of the great,

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* If the Reader proceeds regularly on, without noticing the Capital Letters or Figures, he will have a short History of the Introduction of Printing into England.

and especially of the Abbot of Westminster, he first set up a press in that Abbey, and began to print books soon after the year 1471. This tradition prevailed till a book, which had scarcely been noticed before the reformation, gained the attention of the curious. It was dated from Oxford, Anno 1468. This was immediately considered as a clear proof and monument of the
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R
S T U V W X Y Z

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exercise of printing in that University, several years before the erection of the press by Caxton.

This book, which is in the public library of Cambridge, is a small volume of 41 leaves in quarto, with this title: "Expositio Sancti Jeronimi in Simbolum Apostolorum ad Papam Laurentium:" and at the end, "Explicit expositio, &c. Impressa Oxonie, and finita Anno Domini MCCC CLXVIII. VII die Decembris."


A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q
R S T U V W X Y Z

The appearance of this book robbed Caxton of a glory that he had long possessed : and Oxford ever since carried the honour of the first press. One difficulty, however, still remained ; the silence of history concerning an event so memorable, and the want of any memorial, even in the University, of the establishment of a new art among us, so useful and beneficial to learning : but this likewise has been cleared up,

by the discovery of a record, which had lain obscure and unknown at Lambeth House, in the register of the See of Canterbury, which gives a narrative of the whole transaction, drawn up at the very time. An account of this record was first published in a thin quarto volume, in English ; with the title—"The Original and Growth of

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Printing, collected out of history and the records of this kingdom : wherein it is also demonstrated, that printing appertaineth to the prerogative royal ; and is a Flower of the Crown of England. By Richard Atkins, Esq.—Whitehall, April 25, 1664. By order and appointment of the Right Hon. Mr. Secretary Morrice, let this be printed. Thomas Ricaut. London : printed by John Streater, for the Author, 1664."
4to. This sets forth, that as soon as the art of printing made some noise in Europe,
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Thomas Bouchier, Archbishop of Canterbury, moved the King, Henry VI. to use all possible means for procuring a printing-mould (for so it was then called) to be brought into the kingdom. The King listened to the proposal, and taking private advice how to effect the design, concluded that it could not be accomplished without great

secrecy, and a considerable sum of money to enable the person or persons employed to draw off some of the workmen from Haerlem in Holland. One thousand marks were judged necessary, towards which sum the Archbishop contributed three hundred. The money being prepared, the

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management of the design was committed to Mr. Robert Turnour, who was then Master of the Robes, and highly in favour with the King. Mr. Turnour took with him Mr. Caxton, who, trading much in Holland, had a creditable pretence not only for going into the Low Countries, but for his continuance there. Mr. Turnour was

O Albion! still thy gratitude confess
 To CAXTON, founder of the BRITISH PRESS;
 Since first thy mountains rose—or rivers flow'd,
 Who on thine isles so rich a boon bestow'd?
 Yet stands the chapel in yon Gothic shrine,
 Where wrought the Father of our English Line;
 Our art was hail'd from kingdoms far abroad,
 And cherish'd in the hallow'd house of God;
 From which we learn the homage it receiv'd,
 And how our sires its heavenly birth believ'd;
 Each Printer hence, howe'er unblest his walls,
 E'en to this day his house a CHAPEL calls.

M^cCREERY.

with him into England. It is rather supposed that he himself continued abroad for improvement in the art. The manner of casting metal types being divulged in 1462, by the workmen of Mentz, he would naturally be anxious to acquire this advantageous branch before his return home. Caxton tells us, in the preface to the History of Troye, that he began that Translation, March 1, 1468, at Bruges; that he proceeded on with it at Ghent; that he finished it at Cologne, 1471, and printed it probably in that city with his own types. He was thirty years abroad, chiefly in Holland; and lived in the court of Margaret Duchess of Burgundy, sister

of our Edward IV. It was therefore much easier to print his book at Cologne, than to cross the sea to learn the art at Oxford, especially since he had *there* the opportunity of practising it again in an improved state. As the place where the art originated, and whence it was derived, it may be remarked, that the method of *casting* the types, which was discovered at Mentz, was such an improvement, that it was regarded by many as the *original* of printing; and Caxton, as most others do, ascribes that to Mentz.

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That printing was practised at Oxford, was a prevailing opinion long before Atkins's account. Bryan Twyne, in his "Apologia pro Antiquitate Academicæ Oxoniensis," published 1608, tells us, "It is so delivered down in ancient writings," having heard probably of this Lambeth MS. And King Charles I. in his letters patent to the University of Oxford, March 5, 1635, mentions printing as brought to Oxford from abroad. As to what is objected that it is not likely the press should undergo a ten or eleven years sleep, viz. from 1468 to 1479, it is probably urged without foundation. Corsellis might print several books without date or name of place, as Ulric Zell did at Cologne, from 1467 to 1473, and from that time to 1494, Corsellis's name, it may be said, appears not in any of his publications; neither does that of Johannes Petershemius.

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An Idler is a watch, that wants both hands,
As useless if it goes, as when it stands :
Books therefore, not the scandal of the shelves,
In which lewd sensualists print out themselves;
Nor those, in which the stage gives vice a blow,
With what success let modern manners shew;
Nor his, who, for the bane of thousands born,
Build God a church, and laugh'd his word to scorn,
Skilful alike to seem devout and just,
And stab religion with a sly side-thrust;

Nor those of learn'd philologists, who chase
A panting syllable through time and space,
Start it at home, and hunt it in the dark,
To Gaul, to Greece, and into Noah's ark;
But such as Learning without false pretence,
The friend of Truth, th' associate of sound Sense,
And such as, in the zeal of good design,
Strong judgment lab'ring in the Scripture mine,
All such as manly and great souls produce,
Worthy to live, and of eternal use:
Behold in these what leisure hours demand,
Amusement and true knowledge hand in hand.

COWPER.

Or admitting this suspension of his labours, the civil wars which broke out in 1469 might oblige him to shut up his press; and both himself and his readers be otherwise engaged for some time.

The famous J. Leland, library-keeper to Henry VIII. and others, call Caxton "the first printer of England," probably from his being the first who practised the art with *fusile types*, and consequently first brought it to perfection; and this is not inconsistent with Corsellis's having printed earlier at Oxford with *separate cut types in wood*, which was the only method he had learned at Haerlem.

Concerning the practice of an art so novel in England as that of printing, it is not surprising that Caxton himself, or those who wrote of him, should express themselves in a manner that should seem to represent him as the first printer in this country. Our first printers in those days of ignorance met with but little encouragement; they printed but few books, and but few copies of those books. Afterwards, when the same books were re-printed more correctly, those first editions, which were not as yet become curiosities, were put to common uses. This is the reason we have so few remains of their works. We have only four books of Theodorick Rood, who seems from his own verses to have been a very celebrated printer. Of John Letton, William de Machlinia, and the

Schoolmaster of St. Albans, we have scarcely any remains. Therefore, were it admitted that Corsellis (or the Oxford printer, whatever his name might be) followed his business from 1468 to 1479, yet time may have destroyed his intermediate works: whereas Caxton, who practised the art, with all the facilities of its improvement, and whose good conduct, even from early life, seems to have been rewarded with success and respectability, lived to old age in great repute, published a considerable number of books, and flourished in the sunshine of the court. He served an apprenticeship to one Robert Laye, a mercer, who, after having been Sheriff and Lord Mayor of London, died in 1441, and left William Caxton thirty-four marks, which was a considerable legacy in those days. From the time of his master's death he spent the following thirty years as a

merchant abroad, where, in 1464, we find him employed by Edward IV. in a public and honourable negotiation, jointly with one Richard Whitehall, Esq. to transact and conclude a treaty of commerce between the King and his brother-in-law the Duke of Burgundy, to whom Flanders belonged.

It is probable that the first book printed by Caxton was *Recuyel of the Historie of Troye*. After he had finished the translation, which must have been in the year 1471, or soon after, he would not of course delay the impression longer than necessary, since, as he informs us in the conclusion of the 3d vol. of that work, he was engaged by promise to his friends, who seem to have been pressing and in haste, to deliver copies of it to them as soon as possible. This it is likely he printed at Cologne. In the recital of his works he names this before *The Game of Chess*, which was the first book printed in England. It bears marks, likewise, of earlier antiquity than any other, in the rudeness of its letter, the incorrectness of the language, and the great mixture of French words found in it.

In the year 1471, he complained of "the infirmities of age creeping upon him, and enfeebling his body;" yet he lived twenty years after, and pursued his business with extraordinary diligence in the Abbey of Westminster till the year 1491, in which he died. This Mr. Ames has proved from his Epitaph, and the edition of Catal. Biblioth. Harl. vol. 3. p. 127.

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Fine printing was first introduced by the ingenious Baskerville, who happily succeeded in producing a type of superior elegance, and an ink which gave additional beauty to the type. The peculiar excellence attached to Baskerville, and the consequent celebrity he obtained, gave a stimulus to their exertions, and drew forth the emulation, of many of our countrymen; but to none are we more indebted for our present superiority in the typographic art, than to the talents and ingenuity of Mr. Bensley, Bulmer, Whittingham, and M'Creery.

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in disguise, his beard and head shaven; but Mr. Caxton appeared known and public. Having received the thousand marks, they went first to Amsterdam, then to Leyden, not daring to enter Haerlem itself, for the town had shewn its jealousy by apprehending and imprisoning several persons who came from other parts for the same purpose. Having expended the thousand marks, the King sent them five hundred more. Tournour engaged the assistance of two Hollanders in bringing off Frederic Corsellis, an under workman at the Haerlem press, who late one

night stole from his fellows in disguise, and, entering a vessel prepared for his reception, sailed immediately with a fair wind. But as it was not judged so prudent to set him to work in London, by means of the Archbishop (who had been Vice Chancellor and afterwards Chancellor of the University of Oxford) he was sent thither with a guard, to prevent his escape, till he had performed his contract.

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From the authority of this record, some later writers declare Corsellis to have been the first printer in England. Among these are Mr. Wood, the learned Mattaire, Palmer, and Bagford. Inconveniences arising on account of the distance of the Oxford press from London, and from the sea, the King had a press established at St. Albans, and another in the city of Westminster, where they printed books of divinity and physic.

It is said, that Caxton was an assistant with Tournour in bringing over Corsellis, yet it is no where supposed that he came

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“ — the bond of commerce was design'd
T' associate all the branches of mankind;
And if a boundless plenty be the robe,
Trade is the golden girdle of the globe.
Wise to promote whatever end he means,
God opens fruitful nature's various scenes;
Each climate needs what other climes produce,
And offers something to the gen'ral use;
No land but listens to the common call,
And in return receives supply from all.
This genial intercourse, and mutual aid,
Cheers what were else a universal shade,
Calls Nature from her ivy-mantled den,
And softens human rock-work into men.”

J. Rogerson,

Market-Place, Manchester,

Respectfully informs his Friends and the Public, that he has considerably enlarged his Stock of Writing Papers; and he purposes regularly to keep a good Assortment of Account Book Papers, large and small Post, Foolscap, Pot, Brief, and Copy of the best qualities on reasonable terms.

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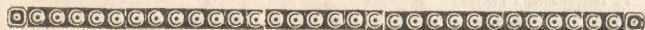
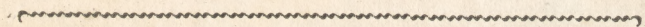
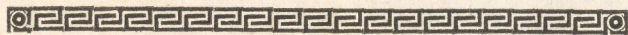
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